Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   **(currently amended)**   An apparatus for transporting items for purchase at a checkout location comprising:

a conveyor;

a processing area positioned downstream from the conveyor for processing one or more items for purchase;

a user proximity sensor for sensing a user at the processing area;

a start sensor positioned at a first end of the conveyor located farthest from the processing area, wherein the conveyor transports one or more items upon the start sensor sensing the one or more items prior to the proximity sensor sensing a user; and

a stop sensor positioned at a second end of the conveyor near the processing area, wherein the conveyor is stopped upon one or more items being sensed by the stop sensor.

2.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the conveyor starts upon an item being placed in proximity to the start sensor.

3.   **(Canceled)**.

4.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further wherein the start sensor comprises a plurality of sensors.

5.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the start sensors are positioned one after the other in a transporting direction at the first end of the conveyor.

6.   (original)   The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the start sensors are spaced apart from one another a predetermined distance.

7.   (original)   The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a last sensor of the plurality of sensors is positioned such that a last item is positioned within a reaching distance of a processing area after passing the last sensor.

8.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein upon the last item clearing the last sensor, the conveyor stops.

9.   **(currently amended)** A method for transporting items along a conveyor in for a checkout system comprising:

   starting a conveyor in a transporting direction upon a first an item being placed in proximity to a start sensor prior to a user being sensed by a user proximity sensor provided at a processing area;

   transporting the first item beyond the start sensor;

   stopping the conveyor prior to the first item reaching an end of the conveyor if the user proximity sensor a checkout sensor positioned in a checkout area indicates that a user is absent at the processing checkout area;

   transporting the first item toward the end of the conveyor if the user proximity checkout sensor indicates a user is present at the processing checkout area;

   transporting the first item toward the second end of the conveyor upon a second item being placed in proximity to the start sensor; and

   stopping the conveyor upon the first item being sensed by a stopping sensor.

10.   (original)   The method according to claim 9, further comprising starting or stopping the conveyor via a switch.

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11.   **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 9, wherein upon the user being present in the checkout area, and upon the <u>first</u> item being removed from the conveyor, the conveyor is operated for a predetermined time interval or until a second item is sensed by the stopping sensor.

12.   **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 9, wherein upon a user being absent from the checkout area, the <u>first</u> item is transported to a position beyond the start sensor.

13.   (original) The method according to claim 12, wherein upon a user being absent from the checkout area, the conveyor moves in the transporting direction upon one or more additional items being placed in proximity to the start sensor.

14.   (original) The method according to claim 13, wherein upon the one or more additional items reaching the stop sensor, the conveyor is stopped.

15.   (original) The method according to claim 9, wherein upon the conveyor moving in the transporting direction, the method further comprises stopping the conveyor via a manual switch.

16.   (original) The method according to claim 9, wherein upon the conveyor being stationary, the method further comprising starting the conveyor via a manual switch.

17.   **(currently amended)** A self-checkout system comprising:

~~an apparatus for transporting items for purchase at a checkout location, the apparatus including~~ a conveyor,

<u>a processing area positioned downstream from the conveyor for processing one or more items for purchase;</u>

a start sensor positioned at a first end of the conveyor <u>located farthest from the processing area</u>, wherein the conveyor transports one or more items upon the start sensor sensing the one or more items<u>;</u>

and a stop sensor positioned at a second end of the conveyor, wherein the conveyor is stopped upon one or more items being sensed by the stop sensor; and

a user proximity sensor for sensing the proximity of a user to processing area.

18.   (original) The self-checkout system according to claim 17, wherein the conveyor starts upon an item being placed in proximity to the start sensor.

19.   **(Canceled)**.

20.   **(currently amended)** The self-checkout system according to claim 17, further wherein the start sensor comprises a plurality of sensors.

21.   (original) The self-checkout system according to claim 20, wherein the start sensors are positioned one after the other in a transporting direction at the first end of the conveyor.

22.   (original) The self-checkout system according to claim 20, wherein the start sensors are spaced apart from one another a predetermined distance.

23.   (original) The self-checkout system according to claim 22, wherein a last sensor of the plurality of sensors is positioned such that a last item is positioned within a reaching distance of a processing area after passing the last sensor.

24.   (original) The self-checkout system according to claim 23, wherein upon the last item clearing the last sensor, the conveyor stops.

25.   **(currently amended)** A computer readable media having computer instructions provided thereon for allowing a computer system to perform a method for transporting items along a conveyor for a checkout system, the method comprising:

starting a conveyor in a transporting direction upon an item being placed in proximity to a start sensor prior to a user being sensed by a user proximity sensor provided at a processing area;

transporting the item beyond the start sensor;

stopping the conveyor prior to the item reaching an end of the conveyor if <u>the user proximity sensor</u> a checkout sensor positioned in a checkout area indicates that a user is absent at the <u>processing</u> checkout area;

transporting the item toward the end of the conveyor if the <u>user proximity</u> checkout sensor indicates a user is present at the <u>processing</u> checkout area;

transporting the item toward the second end of the conveyor upon a second item being placed in proximity to the start sensor; and

stopping the conveyor upon the item being sensed by a stopping sensor.

26.   **(currently amended)** An application program operable on a computer system for performing a method for transporting items along a conveyor for a checkout system, the method comprising:

starting a conveyor in a transporting direction upon an item being placed in proximity to a start sensor <u>prior to a user being sensed by a user proximity sensor provided at a processing area</u>;

transporting the item beyond the start sensor;

stopping the conveyor prior to the item reaching an end of the conveyor if <u>the user proximity sensor</u> a checkout sensor positioned in a checkout area indicates that a user is absent at the <u>processing</u> checkout area;

transporting the item toward the end of the conveyor if the <u>user proximity</u> checkout sensor indicates a user is present at the <u>processing</u> checkout area;

transporting the item toward the second end of the conveyor upon a second item being placed in proximity to the start sensor; and

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stopping the conveyor upon the item being sensed by a stopping sensor.